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Conditions in Georgia.

It is indeed high time that Georgia set
about its earnest having a cleaning-up of
her penal system. In Georgia the convict-
lease system has been going on for
years, and has been, in its close approach
to slavery of the worst kind, a source of
profit to the State. Indeed, practically
the bulk of the school fund of the State
has come from the profits of this leasing
of convicts, and those who oppose now—
in spite of the recent most horrible re-
velations—the doing away of the lease sys-
tem and the establishment of ordered
penitentiaries find their strongest argu-
ment in the fact that by so doing away
with the abuse the school system of the
State might be crippled. Yet we think
that public opinion, both in and out of the
State of Georgia, is so aroused by the
publication of the atrocities that have
taken place under the system now in
force that it must not be allowed to en-
dure.

It is not necessary here to go into the
details of the tragedies that have oc-
curred in various convict camps; of sick
prisoners, unable to work, being left
chained to the ground to die unattended;
of white men, unable to perform the
task of labor imposed upon them by the
masters who have bought them, held to
the ground by negroes while they were
flogged into unconsciousness; of ill feed-
ing, lack of medicine, lack of clothes,
lack of decency of all these things there
has been far too much. Man's inhumanity
to man could go no further than it has
done under the convict-lease system of
Georgia. It is time, not only for the sake
of the good name of Georgia, but for the
good name of the United States and of
the American people, that these horrors
should cease.

Apart from regarding the convicted
men as money-making chattels for the
State, the whole system is ineconomic and
wasteful, and surely one must doubt
whether education by means of money
wrung from such suffering as has oc-
curred in the convict camps can really
benefit the State.

Five Democrats are candidates for gov-
ernor of Illinois. Thought the Demo-
crats were getting over that disease.

Central America.

When the Central American republics
met in Washington in the now famous
peace conference, there was little rea-
son to expect that so soon would the re-
sult of that conference be brought to a
test. But the test is on. Happily, the revo-
lutionary movement in Honduras seems to
have been suppressed, but so far there has
been no explanation as to the causes of
the revolt, and though it has been charged
that the disaffection was brought about
by the Presidents of Salvador and Guate-
mala, who desired to depose President
Dávila in favor of ex-President Bonilla,
these dignitaries have denied the im-
peachment.

But though matters down there are
quiescent, the differences are by no means
settled. A few days ago both Honduras
and Nicaragua filed a complaint before
the Central Court of Justice at Cartago,
in which they charge Salvador and Guate-
mala with specific violations of their
treaty obligations, and in which they de-
mand equitable relief.

This is the court created as a result of
the peace conference at Washington. The
Central American republics agreed, with-
out exception, to submit every kind of
controversy which might arise to the
adjudication of this international court,
from whose decrees there might be no
appeal. In submitting their differences
and their charges to the court, Honduras
and Nicaragua are but fulfilling their
part of the agreement. In making their
complaint, these two republics have sub-
mitted evidence and the defendant rep-
ublics were called upon for an answer.
Pending the full hearing of the cause,
the court at Cartago has issued a decree
commanding the Salvadorian commander-
in-chief to withdraw his forces from the
vicinity of the Honduran border, and an-
other decree ordering President Cabrera
of Guatemala to prevent Guatemalan em-
igrants from taking part in any revolu-
tion in Honduras.

It will be interesting to watch the out-
come of this novel experiment in inter-

national peace-making. There seems to
be no power to enforce the decrees of
the court if they are not obeyed, and this
may create a nasty situation. There is,
of course, the moral force of the United
States, and possibly of Mexico, behind
the court's decrees, but it is doubtful how
far this will reach.

"We have just discovered the reason
for the formal notification of nominees,"
says a contemporary. Too bad that you
keep it to yourself, a lot of us would
like to know.

The East Awakening.

Near East and far East are, it is evi-
dent, in the turmoil of a great awakening
—an awakening in a struggle for liberty
that, in some of its aspects, is not unlike
the seething of Europe a century ago, when
the people were coming into their own.
Two comparatively modern causes
have resulted toward this effect: first,
the establishment of American power in
the Philippines, and second, the Russo-
Japanese war. But the leaven had begun
to work before that; it has been working
for many years and in divers ways, but
the revolt is spreading fast.

Its latest manifestation is the granting
of a constitution to its people by the Sul-
tan of Turkey. The same thing was done
in 1876, but it did not last long; it was a
spasmodic attempt at reform, and it died
early, some of the ablest men of Turkey
travelling to the grave with it. But the
present decree has been wrung from the
Sublime Porte by the demand of its peo-
ple, and is the direct result of the propa-
ganda carried on from Paris by a large
body of young Turks whose patriotic
ideal has been the Westernizing of their
nation. The moment was propitious. The
Sultan had the example of Russia on the
north, of Persia on the south; he was
made to feel the imminence of revolt in
his army, the disaffection throughout his
provinces, and at last he has yielded, and
a great step toward liberalism has been
taken.

The action of the Sublime Porte is
symptomatic of the upheaval throughout
the East. Japan is the most significant
example, with the magnificent strides she
has made within the last half century to-
ward an ideal of Western civilization. The
leaven is working in Korea, where the
struggle for liberty and independence,
though comparatively silent, is costing
thousands of lives and much treasure.
Backward China is coming to the front
in the world's affairs mainly because of
the struggles of its people to be free. It
is only within the last decade that such
a word as self-government has had any
meaning for the Chinese, but at last the
revolt is on.

In Hindustan, too, the leaven of revolt
against oppressive conditions is seething,
aided by the propaganda of the Japanese,
and reacting again on the people of the
Philippines, and carrying a voice, only a
whisper yet, to Siam, Afghanistan, and
the other Eastern nations.

The struggle is on; the light is well un-
der way, and it is given to us of this
generation to watch these nations grow.
We may mark the progress of liberty as
exemplified in the growing freedom of the
Russian Douma; we may see Persia, with
her year-old parliament, still struggling
against the autocracy of her Shah; we
may note India calling upon her people
to throw off the yoke of British govern-
ment; the people of Korea laying down
their lives against oppression; the un-
counted millions of long-blighted China
groping toward the light of liberty and
expression.

It is a world movement toward freedom
that is on, and looking to the future, one
can see something fitting in recalling the
prophetic expression of Charles Dickens:

"I see a brilliant people rising from this
slope, and they struggle to be free in their
thoughts and deeds, through long long years
come, I see the end of this time and of the
time of which this is the natural birth, gradually
making expansion for itself, and wearing out."

Tom Watson is "an amiable cuss." He
berates Mr. Bryan for voting in caucus
for Mr. Springer, of Illinois, for Speaker
of the House in preference to Mr. Crisp,
while the records show that he—Tom—
voted for himself.

Plutocracy and Charity.

The whole trend of organized charity
within the past few years has been
against giving something for nothing.
The best thought on the subject has come
to the conclusion that to aid those in
need without requiring some service in
return for that aid tends toward pauper-
ism, and, in effect, hurts more than it
helps. But it would seem that this rule,
like so many other excellent rules, is
made to apply only to the poor individual.
Colleges, libraries, and many other in-
stitutions are by no means ashamed to beg
for the money of the plutocrat, and so
far as any public record goes, not one of
these proposes to make any return for the
money so donated.

We are glad to see that there are some
who look upon this public begging as
humiliating. Quite recently the Massa-
chusetts State legislature "Resolved, That
the board of trustees of the Massachu-
setts Agricultural College are hereby au-
thorized and directed to use their best
efforts to secure and accept for the col-
lege the benefit of the retiring fund of the
Carnegie Foundation for the advancement
of teachers." That is, these trustees
were authorized to beg from the Carnegie
Foundation various sums of money to be
applied to the relief of teachers retired
by age or other causes from the college,
and for whom the State itself had made
no relief.

It is gratifying to know that the Spring-
field Republican, which is a power in
Massachusetts, sees the matter in its
true light and is not afraid to speak out.
"The first State to kneel," it says, speak-
ing of the matter, and in an editorial
which admits of no misconception of
what it thinks in regard to this appeal
for charity it says:

"It is particularly humiliating that Massachusetts
should be the first State in the Union, through its
government, to beg for Mr. Carnegie's money in this
connection. State pride, State responsibility and ob-
ligation seem to have disappeared, and one finds a
Commonwealth that should be rich in its sense of
independence and self-reliance chafing at the rich man's
dollar on the vulgar theory apparently that if Mas-
sachusetts does not get them there are other States that will."

You see, there is no question as to the
ability of the State of Massachusetts be-
coming able to fulfill each and every obli-
gation it owes to the teachers of the Massa-
chusetts Agricultural College, only it

seems an easier way out for the State
legislature to authorize the trustees to
beg the necessary money from a rich
man who has a reputation for public
philanthropy. It is, as the Republican so
temperately remarks, humiliating in the
last degree. The whole question of the
public philanthropy which has become so
marked a feature of our social life since
the advent of what have become known
as "swollen fortunes" is one that is not
flattering to our pride or conducive to our
self-respect. The soul of a community
can be harmed as much by the accept-
ance of charity as the soul of an individ-
ual, and the dollars of the rich are dan-
gerous.

Harry Lehr thinks the American press
should be abolished. There wouldn't be
much use in having a press, if it were
not for the Harry Lehrs of the land.

Relations with Japan.

We are glad to note that there is a re-
action against the feeling that has been
more or less pronounced throughout the
United States for some months that in
some mysterious way we were in danger
of a war with Japan.

It cannot be denied that we have
been watching Japan, and she has been
watching us, a bit too closely for entire
and cordial friendship. For instance,
there was no doubt that Japan became
rather needlessly agitated over the plank
in the Democratic platform demanding
the exclusion of Asiatic immigration.
When the Tokio Asahi declared that it
refrained from commenting upon that
plank, "lest it might fan the popular il-
l-feeling against the United States," it did
the very thing it had expressed itself as
desirous of avoiding. Nor need it be
forgotten that the Japan Mail, the most
influential newspaper published in Eng-
lish in Yokohama, printed an inflamma-
tory column, associating that plank of
the Democratic platform with the jingo-
istic speeches of Capt. Hobson.

Much of the change in the public at-
titude of our relations with Japan has
been brought about through the tactful-
ness and forceful utterances of the United
States Minister to Japan, who has been
on a visit to this country. To his words
the greatest weight must be attached,
for he speaks soberly, with full knowl-
edge of the facts gathered first hand, and
with an evident desire to do his whole
duty to the country which he represents.

And so we may regard as the latest au-
thoritative word on the subject this ut-
terance of Ambassador O'Brien:

"It is a matter of sober fact that the Japanese
are, as far as any one can learn by close observation
and by being brought into contact with their leading
men, not inclined toward war at all. They do not
want war, either with the United States or with
any one else. The picture of Japan as a bloodthirsty
nation, its head on fire with a lust of conquest, and
with a large chip on its shoulder, is quite alien
from the facts of the case. Japan is looking forward
to a future of commercial greatness before all else."

We are more ready to believe that Am-
bassador O'Brien represents the truer situ-
ation in that what he says is in direct
accord with the statements of leading
politicians of Japan. We cannot afford
to disregard the statement of his ex-
cellency Prime Minister Katsura, who,
in the formation of a new cabinet, took
to himself besides the premiership the
ministry of finance, and who declared
that the prime object of his policy and
that of his ministers would be to main-
tain peace throughout the world.

It is plainly evident that the problems
immediately confronting Japan are those
which have to do with her economic,
financial, and industrial development.
These are so great that they will take
all of her enormous energy and all of
her statesmen's address to solve. She
already has had more fighting in her tur-
bulent career than she desires, and we are
quite sure that the sooner all "jingo"
talk of war between the United States and
Japan is dropped by the press and the
public of both countries the better it will
be for all of us.

Mr. Sherman is disposed to be good-
natured about the jokes made at the ex-
pense of his side whiskers. In fact, he
looks upon them as trifles light as air.

"Democrats should quit knocking
Bryan," says the Los Angeles Express.
This prompts us again to ask, "What
is a Democrat?"

The execution of a criminal in Germany
recently was attended by a party of
eight-seers in evening dress. This must
have made things much easier for the
man about to be put out of the way.

A Pennsylvania man offers to go with
the President to Africa, and show him
how to hunt elephants. Evidently, he
hasn't read up much on Rooseveltism.

Mrs. Guinness has been discovered
again—this time in Granddixie. That's
punishment enough for her.

"What's going to become of the An-
nias Club after this year?" asks the Bal-
timore Sun. Oh, it will be doing busi-
ness as the same old stand, but it won't
operate so much in the limelight, per-
haps.

"Mount Hood is smoking," says the
Rocky Mountain News. No wonder, it's
hot enough.

Vermillion, La., has gone "dry." It
would be a sheer waste of time to try to
point Vermillion red, anyhow.

Atlanta has signed a baseball player
named Henn. He ought to be a great
hand on foul.

"What has become of Senator Jeff
Davis?" asks the Detroit News. This
inquiry, we take it, isn't addressed to the
Hon. "Jeff."

Admiral Rojestvensky regrets to report
that he isn't dead yet. He probably
hopes to make good next time, however.

The Atlanta Georgian is worrying itself
about a book called "The Mystery of
Four Fingers." We didn't know there
was anything mysterious about it in
Georgia, even if it is kept strictly on the
quiet.

A Chicago baseball player dropped dead
when his home team was recently. Won-
der if it would affect Washingtonians that
way?

We don't get the \$29,240,000—not even in
stage money! How very surprising!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A GIRL'S DAY.
Canoeing, golfing, rowing,
Some tennis then.
These interests keep her going
Well up to ten.
And then she goes a-strolling
Over sandy dunes,
Watching the breakers rolling
Until 'tis noon.

Golfing, canoeing, riding,
Dressing to dine.
Around the ballroom gliding
From eight to nine.
More walks 'neath stars a-winking
Are due, of course,
A life like this, I'm thinking,
Would kill a horse.

Lengthy.
"I once spent a week in a royal palace."
"Under what circumstances?"
"The king ordered the young heir ap-
parent to tell me his name, and, of course,
I had to hear him out."

A Narrow Escape.
"I'd turn you out into a snowstorm but
for one thing," thundered the stage mil-
lionaire.
"Well, sir, what is that?"
"I can't afford a snowstorm with white
paper as high as it is."

A Query.
"They have come to wreck, it seems, on
life's matrimonial sea."
"Indeed? And which rocked the boat?"

To Merchants.
It seems the part of reason,
As I can roundly vow,
To push your goods in season,
So push lawn mowers now.

Two Varieties.
"What kind of a campaign are you go-
ing to conduct?"
"What kind?"
"Yes. Front porch or rear platform?"

Very Conscientious.
"Well, you are now getting \$1 per
word."
"And still I worry," declared the con-
scientious poet.
"Why?"
"Is my doggerel worth it?"

Quite So.
"Ignorance of the law is liable to result
seriously at times."
"Particularly when vested in one's at-
torney."

PRICE FOR METEORITE.

Sold to the New York Museum of
Natural History.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.
The largest price ever paid for a meteorite
will be given for the one found last
fall by H. G. Herold, of this city, who,
while cradling the lumber lands in
Whitcomb County, located what is de-
clared to be the largest meteorite on re-
cord. After a great deal of correspond-
ence with a number of museums, Mr.
Herold has finally practically made a
bargain with one in New York City and
while the price is not revealed, Mr. Her-
old states it is over \$2,000, which was
paid for the next largest meteorite found.

Mr. Herold's meteorite is 10 feet in di-
ameter and fourteen feet in length. It
is located in the forests in the foothills
in the eastern portion of Whitcomb Coun-
ty. The second meteorite in point of
size, Mr. Herold says, is approximately
ten feet in diameter and is oval shaped.
It is now on exhibition in the New York
Museum of Natural History. How the
New York museum people are to get his
meteorite out of the woods is a problem.
Mr. Herold believes those attempting to
handle it will have to wait until snow
covers the ground and then place it on
enormous skids, made from trees, and
slide it out over a road previously cut.
It is not far, Mr. Herold says, from a
railroad, and the grade to the railroad is
all downward.

In Either Case.
From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.
Mr. Bryan, perhaps, should seriously
consider the suggestion that he pledge
himself not to be a candidate for the
Presidency again, not only if he should
be elected, but if he should be defeated.
There are conservative Democrats who
might be won to him in this campaign
if he would make such a declaration, but
on the other hand, there are conserva-
tives who would as surely turn in and
pledge defeat for him in the exultant ex-
pectation that that would finish him.
As a question in tactics, Mr. Bryan's pro-
cedure in this matter may have its diffi-
culties.

Makers of Gloom.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
There are some bankers, likewise, who
are distressed over the present plethora
of money at the East, and at the same
time are making gloomy predictions of a
scarcity of currency when the Western
demand begins in August, as it doubtless
will. Of course, we have a most stupi-
dity of currency system, under which the volume
of currency remains practically the same
in busy seasons and in dull, but if bank-
ers have not learned by experience how
to prepare for the "crop moving,"
call they had better turn over the busi-
ness to somebody capable of putting two
and two together.

Taft's Higher Ground.
From the Springfield Republican.
Mr. Taft does not appeal, and no one
appeals for him, that he be elected to the
Presidency because he will be unable to
enforce policies which he represents. He
is elected for the people, and the people
ground that his election on the platform
upon which he stands will be a popular
mandate to the Senate and House to co-
operate with him in giving full effect to
the principles and policies represented by him.

As to Indiana.
From the Springfield Republican.
Newspaper men from Indiana, who
ought to be impartial judges of the polit-
ical situation there, say that the effect
of the Kern nomination is likely to be to
make the State Democratic this fall. State
pride is strong, and before this nomina-
tion was made there were plenty of signs
that Indiana belonged to the column of the
doubtful States this year.

YOUNG IN HEART.
Thank God for eyes that still can see
The deer chime in side
The emerald grass that grows for me
And each flower's dainty hue.

Thank God for a heart still young.
That can care for the moonbeam's play
And love the flickering shadows flung
When leafy treetops sway.

That is glad when the West wind blows
Through the leafy tops of the trees;
And loves the breath of the rose,
Borne on the summer breeze.

That is stirred with a soulless thrill,
In the pure dawn's rosate light;
And lies entranced and still,
In the starry hush of night.

That is filled with the old-time joy,
By the beautiful spring's return;
And better than riches, or sweet content,
When the suns of summer burn.

When the crimson, bronze, and gold
Of autumn time appear,
With heart that brims as of old,
Quaffs the "rich wine of the year."

When the Frost King's icy fetters
Have withdrawn each leafy stream,
As twilight sees the dream,
As twilight sees the dream.

—L. E. K., in Hartford Courant.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance is the
principal political topic of the day, and,
on the whole, the sentiment in regard to
it seems to be that the speech is a good
one, even if a trifle prolix. The New
York Post believes, however, that the
speech will not do much to aid the cause.
It says:

"In fine, Mr. Taft's speech seems likely
to alienate still further the labor ele-
ment and the radical of his own party,
especially those of the West. They
already look upon the Chicago platform
as too reactionary. Mr. Taft is even
less inclined to cut loose and run amuck.
By this attitude he will be strengthened
among the conservatives of the East and
the large business centers of the West,
and among those who, while anxious for
reform, dread Mr. Bryan's propensity
for flighty and ill-considered innova-
tions."

The Philadelphia Press remarks on the
judicial tone of the speech, which it de-
clares plants its author squarely on the
Roosevelt policies:

"Judge Taft's speech of acceptance of
his nomination by the Republican party
for President of the United States is
judicial in tone. It is a careful, com-
prehensive, and conservative exposition
of the issues involved in the coming
election and a clear statement of the
candidate's position thereon. He recog-
nizes that many of these issues have
been raised in President Roosevelt's ad-
ministration. He gives the President full
credit for having formulated the ex-
pression of the popular conscience and
led the movement for popular reform."

He plants himself squarely on the Roose-
velt policies, and announces that the chief
function of the next administration should
be, in his judgment, a progressive de-
velopment of what has been performed
by President Roosevelt."

The New York Globe finds that some
of Mr. Bryan's political chickens are com-
ing home to roost, it says:

"Especially galling to Mr. Bryan must
be to recall with what convincing argu-
ments he recently proved that he and
Mr. Hearst had a conspiracy to keep
himself fighting together for its side by
side. To-day they are at swords' points,
and for every bid that Mr. Bryan has
made for radical support Mr. Hearst can
point to him one who has abandoned him
as a united party behind him. Forsaken
first by the gold Democrats, then by the
Populists, he is now abandoned by the
Progressives. What remains is at least
compact and homogenous."

The Pittsburgh Dispatch thus sums up
the qualifications of the man selected as
chairman of the Democratic National
Committee:

"Norman E. Mack, editor and prop-
rietor of the Buffalo Times, chosen as chair-
man of the Democratic National Commit-
tee, is a strong man, thoroughly acquaint-
ed with political conditions. He has been
a supporter of Bryan at all times, though
not serving with him in any official capacity.
Bryan himself has since cast aside on the
peculiar ground that free coinage was
but a temporary convulsion, a sort of
diagnostic test, and that the party must
hold intact as far as possible the return
of sanity. The Buffalo editor is
handsome, genial, attractive, clean-hand-
ed, rich by reason of keen, telescopic
business, but never of the frenzied
and in social and domestic life is all
that could be desired, even by the
almost priggish Bryan."

The New York Mail thinks that the
candidacy of Gov. Hughes for re-election
became inevitable months ago; so soon,
in fact, as he began his crusade against
evil. It says:

"To all who cared to see and realize
the Hughes candidacy became inevit-
able months ago. From the first the
purges of the party were created that could be interpreted
in no other way than as a defiance
of his purposes and a challenge of his
methods to the people. A weak,
vacillating, purplish government, faced
with such antagonism, might have
wavered, preferring the ease and oppor-
tunity of private life to the cares and
criticisms of public office. But with
men of the Hughes mettle, such with-
drawal was out of the question. They
are thus stirred and inspired to greater
rather than less sacrifice, to stronger
rather than less determination to battle
along the line of duty. The Hughes
candidacy is a personal matter, and
consideration of personal comfort and
private fortune passes quickly out of
mind, and the one question of duty re-
mains. Mr. Hughes has answered that
question, and he has done so with a
man who knew the man felt certain he would.
He regards it as a 'duty and a privi-
lege' to serve another term, if his party
wants him."

"Does his party want him?"

The New York Evening Post is not in-
clined to look upon the selection of Nor-
man E. Mack as Democratic manager
for the party. It declares:

"Of Norman E. Mack as chairman of
the Democratic National Committee, the
best that can be said is that he is not
Thomas Taggart. Mr. Taggart as a na-
tional chairman is a poor specimen of
melancholy failures on record. Compared
with Mr. Hitchcock, now generalissimo
of the Republican campaign, Mr. Mack
is nowhere; he is far inferior in general
intelligence, energy, and executive skill.
Moreover, the selection of Mr. Mack is
a pretty plain notification that Mr. Bryan
does not care for the support of the in-
dependent and the remnant of the Cleve-
land Democracy in New York State. Mr.
Mack's character and antecedents will
repel rather than attract voters of this
type. Many independents are inclined
toward the party, and they are inclined
to support Mr. Taft against Mr. Bryan. A
number of others who are wavering will
surely accept the Republican ticket if Mr.
Hughes runs again for governor. But in
order to make sure of the vote of the
thousand of respectable and intelligent
men who might, in spite of all, still cling
to Bryan, it has seemed necessary to get
Mr. Mack to manage his campaign."

Commenting on the declaration of M.
E. Ingalls that he proposes to support
Mr. Bryan this year, the Springfield Re-
publican says:

"It is in the line of good sense and of
such confidence in the wisdom and good
sense of the American people as we all
ought to cherish. Grover Cleveland had
no Democrat was fit to rule the country,
so far as the occupant of the Presiden-
tial chair does this. It is thoroughly un-
patriotic for any man to contend that
a change in the personnel of the Fed-
eral government would mean ruin to
business. If this were true, the
business of the country rests upon a
most unstable basis. The great mass of
business men in the country are sensi-
ble enough to see the wisdom of a
little about politics, and worrying
before in our history is this true. This
is the sensible and stable position to
take, and the one that will best assure
the future. Even the partisan headlines
are more composed than they used to
be."

An echo from the Standard Oil decision
is this from the Philadelphia Press:

"Judge Landis looked to the real owner
of the Standard Oil Company of In-
diana. The court that reverses him looks
to the legal corporation. A difference
like this needs an expert to decide the
court of last resort. Railroad rates
must be uniform. If existing laws still
leave it possible for actual concessions
to be legally secured it is clear that the
law should be changed. The law can be
known only when the Supreme Court
finally passes on a case like this and